

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, JA

SUBJ: VISIT OF JAPANESE DOCTORS TO ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS: RERF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

REFS: A) TOKYO 13386, B) STATE 222488

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES PROMPT GUIDANCE FURNISHED REFTEL B.
2. SECOND MEETING WITH SABURI MENTIONED REFTEL A TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED ON 9/9. JABLON, KROPP, AND BLOOM WERE U.S. REPS. SABURI, KUROKAWA, YAMASHITA, AND EMORI WERE ON JAPANESE SIDE. MOST OF MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH RETIREMENT FUND AT RERF. PROBLEMS WERE LARGELY RESOLVED, AND JABLON AND KROPP WILL BE ABLE TO FURNISH COMPLETE DETAILS ON THEIR RETURN TO U.S.
3. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO MATTER OF SENDING JAPANESE DOCTORS TO U.S. IT WAS LARGELY REHASH OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSION IN HIROSHIMA BUT IN MORE FORMAL VEIN, WITH ONE OR TWO NEW WRINKLES. FOR FIRST TIME, SABURI EXPLICITLY STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS EFFORT HANDLED AS A RERF PROJECT. HE CITED YAMADA STUDY AS PRECEDENT, ALTHOUGH IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT ABCC HAD NOT FUNDED YAMADA STUDY AND THAT IT HAD BEEN FUNDED BY ORNL AS PART OF LATTER'S PRO-

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GRAM. HE THEN SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO USE FUNDS WHICH HAD

BEEN TRANSFERRED TO RERF BY MHW WHICH ARE NOT REPEAT NOT PART OF JOINT USG/GOJ FINANCES, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY FAVORED USE OF RERF JOINT ACCOUNT. HE ALSO STATED THAT IF THIS APPROACH WERE FOLLOWED, RERF MEDICAL PERSONNEL WOULD PROBABLY BE THE ONES SENT TO U.S., AND PROJECT WOULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF RERF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.

4. U.S. REPS QUESTIONED WHETHER PROJECT WAS TRULY SCIENTIFIC IN NATURE, AND STATED THAT IF IT WERE TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED WITHIN RERF, APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD BE REQUIRED. DR. YAMASHITA NOTED THAT SIMILAR PROJECTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY ABCC, MENTIONING STUDIES IN HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO (THE NI-HON-SAN PROGRAM). JABLON OBSERVED THAT RERF (ABCC) DOCTORS WERE NOT EMPLOYED FOR THIS EFFORT.

5. SABURI SAID THAT IF PROPOSED PROGRAM IS CARRIED OUT, ASSISTANCE OF U.S. DOCTORS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED, PARTICULARLY IF MORE SOPHISTICATED EXAMINATION AND DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED. HE ALSO SAID THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, EITHER OFFICIAL OR INFORMAL, WOULD BE SOUGHT. JABLON OFFERED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH ERDA OFFICIALS ON HIS RETURN TO U.S. AND SABURI CONFIRMED THAT REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE/APPROVAL WOULD BE COMING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

6. FYI: REFTEL B REACHED EMBASSY WHILE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS AT MHW. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL GIVEN TO SABURI BY PHONE AFTER CONCLUSION OF MEETING AND HE EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR QUICK USG REACTION. AS CAN BE OBSERVED FROM REPORTING ABOVE, POSITION TAKEN BY U.S. REPS WAS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH GUIDANCE FURNISHED. END FYI.
SHOESMITH

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